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May 30, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Docket number 02-122 / Proceeding 02-60
Re-designation of Urban Area for Rural Health Care Program in the Pacific Insular Areas

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please transmit this message to Chairman Michael Powell as well as to Commissioners Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps and Kevin Martin.

I am the Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Startec Global Communications Corporation (an American company headquartered in Potomac, MD) in charge of Asia and the Pacific. I am based at our Asia-Pac office in Hagåtña, Guam.

Startec specializes in establishing the most up-to-date telecommunications systems to, from and within the "emerging economies". As a company we are thoroughly committed to being "good corporate citizens" by providing essential services to vital sectors such as health care and education in what amount to under-served communities.

Commissioner Copps may remember me as a member of Ron Brown's staff in the Office of the Secretary (I was Executive Secretary of the Department) while we were both at the US Department of Commerce and working toward the goals of universal access for the "information have nots".

Startec is a contributor to the USF and operates a substantial data network among Guam, Saipan and Hawaii. Based upon our intimate knowledge of the demographics of Guam and Saipan, where we have been marketing to customers for several decades, Startec firmly believes that it is not reasonable to have Guam or Saipan designated as urban areas.

Therefore, we are in full support of the redefinition of Honolulu as the urban center for Guam for the Rural Health Care Program.

In the best interests of both the consumer and smaller companies such as Startec which are competing to provide essential services in this market, I am asking that the Federal Communications Commission re-designate Honolulu as the urban center for Guam, Saipan and for other U.S. associated Pacific Basin jurisdictions for the purpose of the Rural Health Care Program.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (671) 475-6801.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Das
Senior Vice President
Managing Director Asia Pacific

cc: Ms. Chiling Tong
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific
US Department of Commerce

Mr. David Cohen
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs
US Department of the Interior

Mr. Doug Baker
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries
US Department of Commerce

Mr. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Representative
Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature